

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/650,635

**Examiner**

WILLIAM J. ALLEN

**Applicant(s)**

MESAROS, GREGORY J.

**Art Unit**

3625

**- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the BPAI decision mailed 9/21/09 and Examiner's Amendment transmitted herewith.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 4-20 and 34-42.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 20091029.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

/Jeffrey A. Smith/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3625

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Prosecution History Summary***

Claims 1-2, 4-20 and 22-42 were pending.

Claims 22-33 were previously withdrawn and are hereby cancelled.

Claims 1-2, 4-20 and 34-42 are allowed.

***Examiner's Amendment***

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Matthew Clapper on 10/29/2009. The application has been amended as follows:

**In the Title**

The title has been amended to read as follows:

--Multiple supplier system and method for transacting business--

**In the Claims**

8. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting electronic commerce comprising:

employing at least one processor to execute computer executable instructions stored in memory to perform the following acts:

requesting an online bid from a plurality of suppliers;

receiving bids from bidding suppliers, each bid specifies a price for which the associated bidding supplier will sell a product at particular price points varying as a function of a quantity of the product;

displaying in real time a lowest price bid at a respective price point as bids are received;  
and

accepting a bid.

Claims 22-33 (Cancelled).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Independent claims 1 and 8 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth in the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences decision mailed 9/21/2009 (note Pages 5-6). Claims 2-20 and 34-42 depend from allowable claims 1 and 8 and are thereby allowed therewith.

In addition, claim 8 now recites *employing at least one processor to execute computer executable instructions stored in memory to perform the following acts*. Such amendments are noted to overcome any potential rejections under 35 USC 101, with the following interpretation noted. The term employing is hereby interpreted as “to put to service or use” [Webster’s New Riverside Dictionary], or similarly, “to make use of (an instrument, means, etc.)” [www.Dictionary.com]. The steps then require that a processor be actively used to execute instructions performing the recited acts.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WILLIAM J. ALLEN whose telephone number is (571)272-1443. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff A. Smith can be reached on (571) 272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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3625

William J. Allen  
/William J Allen/  
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